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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. COUNTRY INFORMATION REPORTCD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

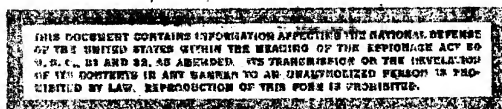
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SUBJECT Condition of East German Coal Mines

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE:

1. Many of the coal mine shafts of East German coal mines are becoming unfit to work in, due to the dangerous conditions resulting from insufficient or faulty shoring timbers and supports. This situation has been impending for some time and is only now becoming critical. Many attempts have been made to obtain the necessary materials through East-West trade, since they are unavailable in East Germany; recently an attempt was made to obtain pitch pine from the U. S. through the Swiss firm of Eximport.
2. In the Steinkohlenbergbau in Zwickau, the inspecting safety commission recently refused to certify most of the shafts as safe, and the workers refuse to enter many of the shafts. In all the coal mines of East Germany, an estimated one-third of the shafts are not being worked because of refusal of the miners to work in them.

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